

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Accommodations/Lodging: Mount Rushmore National Memorial does not offer any overnight accommodations. Information on accommodations, tours, and other activities and places to visit in the local area can be obtained from the Black Hills Visitor Information Center at (605) 355-3700 or on the internet at <http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/footer/infocenter> For camping information, please see the section "Camping."

Airport: The nearest commercial airport is in Rapid City, about 35 miles from the Memorial. Denver is a six-hour drive from here.

Airport to Memorial/Local Tours: Information on rental cars, tours, activities, and places to visit in the local area can be obtained from the Black Hills Visitor Information Center at (605) 355-3700 or on the internet at <http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/footer/infocenter>

Annual Pass for Entry to Park: Mount Rushmore has a parking fee and not an entrance fee. Passes such as the America the Beautiful Annual Passes, Golden Age and Golden Access passes are not applicable at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Those passes only cover entrance fees. They do not cover or reduce "use fees" such as charges for camping, parking, tours or concessions. Please refer to the section "Parking" for more information.

Birdwatching: A new link has been just added to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial website for the wildlife of the park: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/inventory/parkspslists.cfm> Just click on the box for "Birds" for a list of bird species identified at Mount Rushmore.

Busy Times to Visit the Park: The Memorial is open year round (the only day the Information and Visitors Centers are closed is Christmas Day). The number of visitors is fewer during the fall, winter, and spring season (but what great times to visit, with all the natural beauty surrounding us). Every day during the summer (especially July and August) is a busy one, with no particular day being less crowded. You may find that early in the morning or later in the afternoon to be the less crowded times each day.

Campgrounds: Mount Rushmore National Memorial does not offer any overnight accommodations. There are many campsites around the vicinity. Reservations can be made at some of the National Forest Campgrounds by calling 1-877-444-6777. Reservations for Custer State Park campsites can be made by calling 1-800-710-2267. All other campsites are available on a first-come-first-served basis. For a campground guide listing private campgrounds, call 1-800-721-5682.

Evening Program/Lighting of Faces: Join a park ranger in the park's outdoor Amphitheater every evening during the summer (May TBD through September) for a 45-minute inspirational program focusing on the presidents, patriotism and the nation's history. Beginning with a ranger talk (approximately 10 minutes), this program continues with the film *Freedom: America's Lasting Legacy* (20 minutes) and culminates in the lighting of the memorial. The evening concludes with a flag ceremony honoring military personnel past and present. During the season of October to May, there is no formal evening program; however, the sculpture is illuminated at dusk.

Fireworks: Fireworks will not be part of the 2012 Independence Day Celebration. In the past, they were held on July 3rd; however, due to the fire danger as a result of the pine beetle infestation throughout the Black Hills, that event has been cancelled. The infestation has devastated the trees in the nearby wilderness area, killing them, and leaving a wide swath of dead trees, providing a possible extreme fire danger to the wilderness and the nearby Mount Rushmore. For your information, measures (including spraying and thinning of trees) are being taken to protect the trees and other resources on the grounds of Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Fireworks (Future Years): No decision has been made whether to resume firework displays during the Independence Day celebrations in the future. Please check our web site, www.nps.gov/moru for future announcements.

Food Service: The dining facility at Mount Rushmore is operated by our concessionaire, Xanterra Parks and Resorts. Not everyone has an opportunity to dine with a president, but at Mount Rushmore, people do it every day. The newly renovated Carvers Café offers visitors a delicious array of food selections, served with a commanding view of the presidential sculptures. The food-court style café at Mount Rushmore offers visitors multiple food stations with exhibition kitchens, designed to satisfy every guest. Dress is always casual and the setting is always relaxed at the Carvers Café. Menus are seasonal and subject to change during winter hours.

Contact Info For Xanterra

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
13000 Highway 244, Bldg. 81
Keystone SD 57751
Phone: 605.574.2515
Fax: 605.574.2495

Free Items: We, unfortunately, do not have any free posters, stickers, or pins that are available to give away.

Gift Stores: There are two different shopping venues at Mount Rushmore, one a gift shop (souvenir-type items) and the other a bookstore (books, postcards, sculptures, etc.). The following is the contact information for both:

Gift Store, a concession operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts. Contact information:

Mt. Rushmore Concessions
13000 Hwy 244 Bldg. 81
Keystone SD 57751
Attn: Mail Order
Phone: 1-800-827-9323 or 1-605-574-2515
<http://www.mtrushmorenationalmemorial.com/shop/>

Book Store, operated by the Mount Rushmore History Association. Contact information:

Mount Rushmore History Association
13036 Highway 244
Keystone SD 57751
Phone: 1-800-699-3142
<http://www.mtrushmorebookstore.com/Content/19.htm>

Handicapped Parking: There is no discount for handicapped parking. A parking fee per vehicle is assessed to offset expenses for the construction, operation and maintenance of the parking facility. This parking permit entitles a vehicle unlimited entry for the calendar year, thus encouraging return visits to Mount Rushmore. There are handicapped-designated parking spots on the upper levels of the parking garage. If those parking spots are occupied, there are elevators on the other levels for easy access. Please see the section "Wheelchairs" for information on services available for individuals needing/using a wheelchair.

How Long to Spend at Mount Rushmore: The amount of time you will need will depend on which activities you wish to participate in and seasonal offerings; however, during the summer, half of a day may be adequate + an evening to take in the evening program if you desire.

Junior Ranger: EXPLORE. LEARN. PROTECT. Be a Junior Ranger! What is a Junior Ranger? Are you interested in exploring? Do you like art, history or nature? How about animals? Would you like to learn more about the national parks that belong to you? Did you know you can help protect these special places - even if you never visit them all? YOU could become a Junior Ranger! Rather than tying their park experiences only to the scheduled programs, Junior Ranger Programs are designed to provide participants with the flexibility to see and interact with the park at their own pace and within the limits of their own time. Interested students complete a series of activities during their park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger badge or patch and Junior Ranger certificate. During your visit to Mount Rushmore you can become a Junior Ranger. Just stop at the Information or Visitor Center desks for the booklets.

Junior Ranger Trainee: designed for children ages 3-5 years old. No fee. Young visitors learn about Mount Rushmore and the natural resources through exploration activities found within the book. A Junior Ranger Badge along with a certificate is awarded upon completion of the booklet.

Junior Ranger Activity Book: designed for children ages 5-12 years old. No fee. Youngsters learn more about Mount Rushmore as they explore the memorial through the activities inside. A Junior Ranger Badge along with a certificate is awarded upon completion of the booklet. Once the certificate is obtained, a souvenir patch may also be purchased in the Visitor Center or Information Center bookstore.

Rushmore Ranger Activity Booklet: for ages 13 and up. No fee. Designed for older children and adults to enhance their Mount Rushmore experience through learning activities. A certificate is awarded upon completion of the booklet. Once the certificate is obtained, a souvenir patch may be purchased in the Visitor Center or the Information Center bookstore.

Web Rangers: This is the National Park Service's on-line Junior Ranger program for kids of all ages. In addition to learning about national parks, monuments, and historic sites, children can play more than 40 activities. The web site for the program is: <http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/>

Lost and Found: The lost-and-found section is within the Law Enforcement Division and can be contacted at 605-574-3461.

Name of Mountain: The Mountain was named after a lawyer named Charles Rushmore. He came from New York to check legal titles for the tin mines in the local area. Mr. Rushmore would ask many questions as he was very impressed with everything he saw. One day as he was being led by a guide (a rough local miner), he asked the name of the majestic mountain he saw nearby. The guide told him, "It never had a name before, but from now on we'll call it Mount Rushmore." Later, locals also called it Rushmore Peak and Rushmore Rock. In 1930, the Board of Geographic Names officially recognized the name "Mount Rushmore."

Parking: An \$11 parking fee per vehicle is assessed to offset expenses for the construction, operation and maintenance of the parking facility. This parking permit entitles a vehicle unlimited entry for the calendar year, thus encouraging return visits to Mount Rushmore. The fee for commercial-bus parking is \$50. Verified non-profit educational tour-bus parking is \$25. Commercial-tour-van parking is \$11. All parking permits for these vehicles are issued for 24-hour periods. Presidential Parking accepts: Tentatively by May 1, 2012 Credit Cards, Cash or travelers checks. Parking at the Memorial's parking complex is managed by Presidential Parking, Inc. This park concession operates under an agreement between the National Park Service and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society. Federal funding was not used to construct the parking facility. Please note: reservations are not accepted for parking.

Pets: Pets are not permitted in any part of the Memorial grounds, except in the pet exercise areas located at each end of the main parking facility. You may, however, leave your pet in your vehicle during your visit. There are three levels within the parking facility, with the lower ones providing shade and cooler temperatures. Bags for picking up after your pet are provided for your convenience in the exercise areas. If you are planning a lengthy stay, please see the kennels and pet services listed in area phone books.

Picnicking: You may bring your food and cooler into the park. However, picnic tables are not available on the grounds, but are at a nearby National Forest Service picnic area. Please be advised that there are no storage lockers available and bags/coolers cannot be left unaccompanied during your visit.

Recommending Restaurants/Motels: As a National Park entity, we are unable to recommend any specific local restaurants/motels and do not have any "comp" meals to offer. Information on restaurants and lodging can be obtained from the Black Hills Visitor Information Center at (605) 355-3700 or on the internet at <http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/footer/infocenter>

Routing from Other Areas: Unfortunately, we do not have information for places to stay or attractions and activities to see and do while traveling along the route from your home state. For that information, please contact the tourist centers of each state you plan to visit.

Weather: What to expect: unpredictability. A foggy and rainy day may be followed by sunny warm temperatures and vice versa. Warm days and cool nights are common in the summer. For evening programs, it is best to bring a light jacket. Afternoon or evening thundershowers are common in July and August. On occasion, fog may obscure any view of the Memorial.

Wheelchairs: Services available for individuals needing a wheelchair:

- * Vehicles may load and unload visitors with mobility impairments in front of the main entryway.
- * Wheelchairs are available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis at the Information Center. Please ask a park ranger for additional information on accessible programs available during your visit.
- * Elevators on either side of the Grand View Terrace take visitors to the Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center and Amphitheater.
- * The Presidential Trail is wheelchair accessible from the Grand View Terrace to viewing areas at the base of the mountain. The dining facility and gift shop are also wheelchair accessible.

